

## **Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021

A meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 10:00am via Zoom Teleconference with the following members present: Richard McCarthy, Josette Burke, Linda Winslow, Janet Fasanello and Mary Jones. Also in attendance was the COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Assistant Director Debbie Fradkin, COA Outreach Worker Laurel St. Pierre, Select Board Member Mark Gallivan, Nancy Aicardi and COA Board Candidates Sandhya Mular, Joanne DiPietro, and Linda Coletti

Absent were members Jim Pellegrine, Dorothy Smith and Roseanne Rockwell

10:02 AM: The Meeting was called to order by Richard McCarthy

1. Board Chair Richard McCarthy called for a review of the April 22nd minutes. There were no corrections noted. Linda made a motion to accept the April 22nd minutes and Mary seconded. The minutes were accepted with one abstention from Josette as she did not attend the meeting.
2. COA Director Kerri McManama, with input from Laurel St. Pierre, provided a slide presentation on the Center's Statistics and Programming for the month of April.
  - Outreach - there were a total of 624 calls – 617 client calls and 7 service providers. Call numbers are coming down as people start coming back into the Center
  - Medical rides are given on Monday and Thursday from 9:00am to 2:00pm, and their numbers have still been increasing which is a good sign.
  - Title III Grant is being used for medical rides outside our local area, such as Boston and Burlington.
  - Out of town participants is at 19% which is down due to other COA's opening up more.
  - At the five month mark, the number of Active Participants has reached and eclipsed the total 2019 numbers, the first year the Center was operational.
3. COA Director Kerri McManama provided a Financial Report
  - Expenses for April were \$1,793.01
  - Formula Grant conversation
    - Expenditures for April was \$2,495.37
    - There is more latitude in spending on the Grant. The biggest expenditure was for Fitness Wellness.
    - The unknown is what the Census numbers will be and how that will affect the amount of the Grant. The Grants are determined by the EOEA (Executive Office of Elder Affairs) based on the Census numbers.
    - The good news is that we can carry over any unused funds from this year into next year.
4. The Center is now in Phase 4 – New Normal
  - June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the first business day after the formal removal of Covid restrictions by Governor Baker
  - We are still awaiting the new official information regarding transportation. Currently masks are required.
  - There will be no coffee service initially
  - Pre-registration will still be required for programs.
  - The Center is not able to request proof of vaccination.

- In-person meetings will soon be an option once again. Some people will be encouraged by this and attend programs, others will not be comfortable without restrictions in place.
- There was discussion regarding holding the June 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting in person at the Center. A vote was suggested on whether to meet in person: Josette moved and Linda seconded. The vote was unanimous to hold June's meeting in person.

#### 5. Board Appointments

- Current Openings: 2 Regular and 1 Associate.
- Nancy contacted the candidates and set up an interview schedule and forwarded the schedule to the Executive Board
- The Executive Board met with the six candidates on May 20<sup>th</sup> and forwarded the Board's recommendations to the Select Board
- Nancy also invited the candidates to attend the May 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting as observers

#### 7. The Chairman (Rich) is empowered to appoint Board members to the Nominating Committee. He has nominated Josette, Janet and Linda

- The Committee will provide a report at the June meeting

#### 8. Patio Upgrade

- Justin Monta, Superintendent Parks, Cemeteries and Forests along with the Garden Club did a number of plantings in and around the patio including planters
- Mr. Abbott and Mr. Sherman also planted vegetables and will maintain them

#### 9. Old Business

- No Old Business to discuss

#### 10. New Business

- Town Election is scheduled for Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>
- Linda brought up that she received a nice note from Nancy Farris forwarding high compliments she has received for the COA staff for the robocalls regarding the League hosted show regarding the election candidates. Many people feel the Center is doing a fantastic job despite many roadblocks this past year.
- A question was raised whether the numbers are back on the Census as yet. Kerri believes the Census is complete but the results have been delayed due to Covid. She does know Census numbers are increasing not just here in Walpole, but does not know whether that also affects the amount of the Grants as there is a finite amount to be divided among many centers.
- There was a brief discussion regarding items for the Agenda for the June Meeting

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for June 24th at 10:00am in person at the Center.**

After an unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35